New Railway Zones

†*288. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new Railway Zones decided to be set up in the country during the last five years;

(b) the number of Zones actually set up out of them;

(c) the names of places where new Zones have been set up; and

(d) the details of progress and the budget provision made in respect of each of these Zones?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (c) The Government has decided to set up seven new Zones as under:

Zones	Headquarter
North Central Railway	Allahabad
East Coast Railway	Bhubaneswar
South Western Railway	Bangalore*
East Central Railway	Hajipur
North Western Railway	Jaipur
West Central Railway	Jabalpur
Bilaspur Zone	Bilaspur

*Government has decided to shift the South Western Railway Headquarters from Bangalore to Hubli (Matter presently subjudice)

(d) Preparatory steps for setting up of Zonal Headquarters are currently under way. A few officers and staff have been positioned at these proposed Headquarters. The detailed demarcation of the proposed Zones has not yet been firmed up and a comprehensive review of the matter is on the anvil.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Budget outlay for 1999-2000 for setting up of New Zones is for Rs. 722 lakhs, with break up for each zone as under:

(Figures in Lakhs of Rupees)

North Central Railway, Allahabad	80
East Coast Railway, Bhubaneswar	60
East Central Railway, Hajipur	80
West Central Railway, Jabalpur	60
South Western Railway, Bangalore	80
North Western Railway, Jaipur	62
Bilaspur Zone, Bilaspur	300

Expenditure incurred in Durgapur Unit of H.F.C.

*289. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 2181, given in the Rajya Sabha on 18th December, 1998 and state:

(a) the expenditure, including the cost of preservation, incurred so far on Durgapur Unit of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation (H.F.C.), after discontinuance of production;

(b) what is Government's plan to re-start the operations;

(c) whether chemical plants of this nature can be kept under suspended animation indefinitely, till a final decision on revival is taken; and

(d) if not, Government's exact plan regarding Durgapur Unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) An expenditure of Rs. 77.83 crores has been incurred so far as standing charges including cost of preservation (salary/wages, power & fuel, etc.) on the Durgapur plant since its shutdown in June, '97.

(b) to (d) Durgapur plant has been kept under preservation as its sustained and viable operations are not feasible unless a complete revamp of the plant is undertaken which is hampered by budgetary constraints and high cost of production. Hence, it will be possible to